

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Yasuo KOBAYASHI)	
)	Group Art Unit: Not assigned
Application No.: Not yet assigned,)	
divisional of 09/655,787)	Examiner: Not assigned
)	
Filed: March 15, 2004)	
)	
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)	
SURFACE TREATMENT)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in prior U.S. application no. 09/655,787, filed on September 6, 2000, upon which Applicant relies for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 15, 2004

By: 
Jill E. DeMello
Reg. No. 42,477

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	08038.0021.01000	Appln. No.	To be assigned
Applicant	Yasuo KOBAYASHI		
Filing Date	March 15, 2004	Group:	To be assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		5,350,480	09/1994	Gray			
		5,395,474	03/1995	Suzuki et al.			
		4,816,638	03/1989	Ukai et al.			
		6,059,922	05/2000	Yamazakai et al.			
		5,342,471	08/1994	Fukasawa et al.			
		5,961,850	10/1999	Satou et al.			
		5,772,832	06/1998	Collins et al.			
		5,976,308	11/1999	Fairbairn et al.			
		5,614,055	03/1997	Fairbairn et al.			
		5,989,345	11/1999	Hatano			
		5,478,429	12/1995	Komino et al.			
		5,851,600	12/1998	Horike et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		6-196455	07/15/94	Japan			No
		1-200628	08/11/89	Japan			No
		3-243688	10/30/91	Japan			No
		4-181734	06/29/92	Japan			No
		4-206526	07/28/92	Japan			No

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce